

OLD WINE IN NEW BOTTLES

(Proverbs retold in Verse)

160/Ri

By :

TULSI NAIDU

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FOREWORD

The popular Pentameter in which these lines are cast lend a lilting lull to the verse which will aid the reader in mouthing the lines with ease and retaining the essence of the epigrams in mind. In particular, the school-going children will have, on their finger-tips scores of apt aphorisms to draw upon, while engaged in essay-writing and the like and, since the axioms have been suitably classified under relevant groupings, one or the other is bound to readily crop up in the mind of the child to suit the topic he or she is labouring upon. Constant usage of the proverbs in writing will, in turn, inspire the users (consciously or unconsciously) to base their actions also upon them. This will, in the long run, assist in shaping their character also.

The utility of this unique hybrid hand-book does not, however end there. Just like the subsidiary subjects of a syllabus or the affiliatory avocations of a vocation, this venture has other interlaced intentions also. It will be noticed that a generous use has been made of various 'figures of speech' like alliterations, synonyms, idioms etc., along with an occasional tongue-twister. Alliterations brighten up any literary piece in which they occur, and no stinting in this regard has been resorted to while composing the various stanzas. The synonyms and antonyms that also abound in this work should be an aid to one's vocabulary. As many synonyms as possible have been closely knit together in the stanzas under each section.

A judicious use of idioms and tongue-twisters has also been made to lend colour and add a touch of humour for the fun-loving.

In short, this is meant to be a multi-faceted little booklet loaded with literary tools mainly meant for the younger generation, but I hope and trust that multiple benefits will accrue to all those who drink of this invigorating and refreshing "Old Wine in New Bottles."

Tulsi Naidu

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VERSE SECTION

INDUSTRY VERSUS INDOLENCE

Fruition dwells on 'Labour's' mountain-top,
And Fortune's right-hand-man is Industry:
But idle brains are tools of Devil's shop;
A child of mother Sloth is Poverty.

For things you want, no use to sit and yearn;
Put to test Labour's efficacy;
The choice of things lies with those who earn;
Loafing beggars choosers cannot be.

Your fate or fortune you yourself do write
And He, in Heaven, merely puts His seal:
Ere you call on Him to hear your plight,
Put your shoulder, first, against the wheel.

No gains are ever had without the pains;
Than wish it done, it's better far to do:
Why depend on others hands or brains?
Help yourself and God will help you too.

A mind well employed is much enjoyed,
While ease, like itch, no man can ever please;
Deeds bear fruits while sloth bears a 'void';
No fruits for him who leads a life of ease.

The key to beggary is but idleness;
Sloth must thank itself for bankruptcy;
Keep counting not on others' kindliness;
Work your way to a life of decency.

Than slave to Sloth, better slave to man;
 Feeds not Indolence but leads to hunger:
 The 'work not' men comprise the 'have-not' clan;
 Comes needy age from youth spent in languor.

The soil pays according to the toil;
 Lazy beggars tiny paise get:
 As much flame there is as much as oil;
 Rupees large are earned by those who sweat.

To gain your ends, make, at least, a beginning:
 Were wishes 'horses', beggars too would ride:
 A good beginning results in a good ending,
 And fame and fortune will soon be at your side.

Life is not a resting but a moving;
 Let your life be 'deed' upon 'deed':
 A search for pearls entails deep diving,
 While, on the surface, float only straw and reeds.

No man is born into this world of ours
 Whose work is not born with him:
 No more there is the golden goose that was;
 To taste ambrosia, the ocean must we skim.

Doers and not talkers are an asset;
 Words are leaves but fruits are born of deeds:
 More than vying words at battling ballots,
 Serving hands are what our country needs.

PROMPTITUDE VERSUS PROCRASTINATION

Time and tide for none do ever wait,
While yet the sun is shining, make your hay:
Should you stir but just a moment late,
You'll find the golden chance has sped away.

Procrastination is the thief of time;
Till precious time is stolen, tarry not:
A stitch in time may save you stitches nine;
The iron must be struck while it is hot.

Rising soon and going soon to bed
Makes a person healthy, rich and wise:
So gain you should if but your bed you spread
With the lamb, and with the lark you rise.

Early birds it is that catch the worms;
And food consumed in time is fresh and soft:
Promptitude and you must come to terms
For, business that's delayed is business lost.

Art is long while life is very short,
And half of it is spent before we know it:
Once gone, Time returns not;
Employ it well — its every little bit.

An hour today is worth two tomorrow;
Hoist your sail when the wind is fair:
Postpone not today's work till morrow;
As swift as wind Time flies in air!

Take flying time by its very forelock;
 To catch it from behind, it wears no tail:
 To run, if required, no use to walk;
 The doctor after death, to whose avail?

Justice, if delayed, become denied:
 Wherefore hang a man and then acquit him?
 Some matters can't be shelved or set aside;
 Act before their time outflows its brim.

He gives twice who gives things in time;
 Gifts, like flowers, are best while freshness lasts;
 Costliest things are not worth a dime
 If given after need for them is past.

Goes the saying — Dangerous are delays;
 The soul of business is to punctual be.
 Time for none will ever change its ways;
 Promptitude, to Success holds the key.

Life's a short summer and man a flower;
 He dies — alas! how too soon he dies;
 The present time alone is in your power;
 Tomorrow's sun for you may never rise.

We hear it said "Better late than never",
 But never is it better to be late:
 Ever to be prompt must you endeavour,
 For never can you Time ever date!

PRECAUTION VERSUS REMEDY

Caution is the eldest child of wisdom;
Unwise it is to leave its safe umbrella
And become, to recklessness a victim;
Discretion is the better part of valour.

In their buds to nip all ills be ready;
Never be unduly smug or sure:
Become, they may, a lasting malady;
Prevention is a better drug than cure.

Once the milk is spilt no use to cry;
Before the steed is stolen lock your stable;
While they still are fresh your fish do fry,
To poison, ere it kills, attach the label.

If coming banes, before them, shadows cast,
It's wise to arm yourself ere they come.
Once you spot the enemy's warship mast,
It's time for you to sound your battle-drum.

Fools do wait till harm befalls themselves
While wiser folk by others' harm beware.
To prevent disease inoculate yourself
And wounded, ere you are, your armour wear.

Your problems must you study well and measure,
For haste is said to often lead to waste;
To marry first and then repent at leisure
May leave behind a sour and bitter taste.

Fools rush in where angels fear to tread;
It always pays to look before you leap:
No grit it is but folly to be led
To toss yourself in waters dark and deep.

Ere cutting once, your cloth, measure twice;
It's better to be sure than be sorry;
Before throwing away, examine thrice;
Make sure no life exists in what you bury.

Haste trips upon its own feet;
First try and then trust you should:
'Good' and 'Quick' seldom ever meet;
Rather than the 'Quick' befriend the 'Good'.

Put not all your eggs in one basket;
Should the basket fall, you lose all:
Ere putting things in it, check your pocket
Lest, through a hole in it, they all should fall.

While age considers, foolish youth ventures,
But those who climb with haste have sudden falls;
They then may need crutches, slings or dentures!
So learn to crawl before you walk at all.

Before you step, look ahead of you,
Before you fire, first take your aim;
Before you act plan what to do;
Before you sign a paper read the same.

Blow first and then sip your tea,
Or else its heat may scald your tongue or lips:
Than disease itself, the cure worse may be;
So keep in mind the many 'prevention tips'.

CONTENTMENT VERSUS AVARICE

Oftentimes, appearance is deceptive
 And all that glitters is not really gold;
 Then why forsake, for wealth or joy prospective,
 The happy lot that you at present hold?

If all you try to grasp, you lose all;
 To two in bush, prefer a bird in hand;
 Greed with foreign lands in love does fall;
 Contentment loves his own mother-land.

The ass had wanted horns but lost its ears,
 And Midas wanted gold but lost his daughter!
 It pays to hold your own belongings dear:
 Better than your neighbour's wine your water.

With luckier folk why, yourself compare?
 At least you 'something' have and not 'nothing'
 Some there are who worse than you do fare;
 Among the blind, the one-eyed should be king.

Whatever man proposes, God disposes;
 Shape your life but fortune leave to God.
 If self-respect, on you, constraint imposes,
 Prefer bread at home to cakes abroad.

While Avarice is the bitter root of evil,
 Contentment is the honeyed flower of bliss
 Which, in time, though doubtless bound to shrivel,
 Becomes, the fruit you would not want to miss.

For mere 'hope' quit not 'certainty';
 Distance lends enchantment to the view;
 To take the 'rough' along with 'smooth' be ready,
 While buying flesh, you buy the bones too.

At others Envy shoots, but hurts itself;
 Better half a loaf than none, they say:
 Your neighbour's wife covet not yourself:
 Shameful craving deserves a shameless 'nay'.

More often than in mansions or in palaces.
 In humble huts Content is known to dwell;
 The more it has, the more is sought by 'Avarice';
 The more it grows, the more it seeks to swell!

Gold is but the dust that blinds all eyes;
 The want of covetous men does never cease;
 Like covetousness exists no other vice;
 Like endless feasts, contented minds can please.

No rose there is without a prickly thorn,
 Nor health or joy un-alloyed and pure;
 Both for weal and woe we all are born;
 Endure we must whatever lacks a cure.

Why complain that bushes of rose have thorns?
 Rejoice that thorny-bushes bear also roses;
 Why complain that cows have also horns?
 Rejoice they give us milk in generous doses.

Every man a Master cannot be:
 But all can rule the kingdom of Contentment,
 Where rulers are the ruled, free and happy,
 Where 'Greed' finds no place, nor 'Resentment'.

PRUDENCE IN SPEECH VERSUS IMPRUDENCE

A sagacious man needs not many words;
He knows too well — no wisdom more than silence;
Seek to hear more than being heard,
And thus reveal your sound and sapient sense.

A man of words is like a field of weeds;
A man of deeds is like a garden of flowers:
The former does not plan his planting of seeds;
The latter picks, for sowing, the season of showers.

A tutored tongue can be a useful weapon
If well-employed, in times of need alone;
Use it not, even in jest or fun,
To wound or slander one, and make him moan.

Brevity is the soul of wit, we know;
Not numbers but the weight of words does count;
Of friends, speak well — let foes unmentioned go:
Till spoken to, blab on no account.

If all do wish to speak, none will hear,
While listening is a part of conversation;
Silence is like gold, and just as dear,
while speech is mere silver in relation.

The tongue boneless is, but bones can break;
Better for your foot to slip than tongue:
The tumbled words failing back to take,
You'd wish that, to its roof, your tongue had clung!

A longer life than injury has an insult;
Speak not all you think; think all you say:
Curt replies in tempers hot result;
A soft answer turneth wrath away.

The least said, the soonest is it mended;
A bridle is essential for the tongue:
Careless words, just like nags untended,
Race beyond return if left unstrung.

The best of bridles is a mouth that's shut
Mere flesh it is, and not as hard as steel;
But deeper wounds than steel the tongue can cut,
Which even Dr. Time may fail to heal!

A kindly word will cost you no expense,
But more than costly gifts is rich in value:
Never let your tongue dispense offence
Or else, your best of friends may cease to pal you!



GOOD CHARACTER VERSUS BAD

Good repute, truth and equity
Are precious more than bags and bags of gold:
Your fortune's lord although you may not be,
Prevent, you can your soul from being sold.

Advice can be had, but not 'conduct';
None can lend or give you good behaviour:
Your own conduct you yourself construct;
As sound it is, as pleased will be the Saviour.

The policy which is best is honesty;
Never, through a lie, seek reprieve;
Clean is truth; truth is 'purity';
A 'Liar' is another name for 'Thief'.

No human trait is gross ingratitude;
Do not ever bite the hand that feeds,
Nor selfishly, your trusting friends delude
Or, with guile, simple folk mislead.

Like oath unto God is any 'promise';
Redeem your pledge and guard your word of honour.
The weight of ill – repute would be enormous;
A horror worse than death would be dishonour.

Monstrous is the motto 'Might is Right',
Its vile and violent methods must you shun:
Beneath the righteous banner 'Right is Might'.
Without a fight a battle might be won.

More than enemies and antagonists,
No greater foe exists than a traitor;
Be he king or common philanthropist,
No peer exists equal to a martyr.

The smudge of guilt, atonement can erase;
Confession, of redressal, is a part;
Better wear a blush upon your face,
Rather than a blot upon your heart.

Admonish, if you must, your friends in private
And give them merited praise, while in public;
Chiding, while in company, is bad of taste
And paints for all a scene tense and sick.

To give or take a bribe are both corrupt,
And just as bad as thieves are 'receivers':
Unwise it is to let your wrath erupt,
But mean and base indeed are deceivers.

You yourself must practise what you preach
For, better is example than precept:
A cheat makes a pompous oath or speech;
A genuine man has his promise kept.

He that respects not is not respected;
He that does not love is seldom loved:
He that accepts not is soon rejected:
He that neglects, to a nook, is shoved.

The past is dead, and buried should be the dead;
It's best to let bygones 'bygones' be:
Forgetting and forgiving has often led
To stronger ties of love and sympathy.

Pardon all, but pardon not yourself;
Let others have the choice of pardoning you;
Chasten none but chasten your own-self;
Let others have no cause to chasten you.



HUMILITY VERSUS PRIDE

Empty pots are known to sound the most,
And shallow brooks do bicker, not the seas:
Impolite it is to brag and boast;
Where boasting ends, begins there dignity.

As great the boast, as small may be the roast;
Good and genuine things need no show:
Nor need is there for quaffing your own toast;
Let those around, your worth, from others know.

About yourself, little should you say,
For waters that are deep are also still:
An ass alone loves itself to bray;
Unwise, it is, to talk of your own skill.

'Holdfast' is a better dog than 'Brag'
For, bragging retracts much from what you've done:
Though true it be that second to none you lag,
One's own praise commends itself to none.

Pride's child is gross 'Ingratitude';
Humility's comely child is 'Dignity':
Braggarts don a dress of colours crude;
The garb of modest men is 'Civility'.

Hauteur, craven folk alone, can corner;
A mouth dabbed with honey gets but flies:
Pompousness is not the way to honour;
Decorous be — there all the honour lies.

To think the world is gone when you are dead
 Is nothing less than vain, conceited ego:
 By foolish pride the silly cock is led
 To think the sun does rise to hear him crow!

'Vainglory' blossoms much but does not bear;
 And, light of weight, a barren branch is straight:
 'Reserve' converts its flowers to fruits with care;
 And lower bows a bough that bears more weight.

With fancy feathers Arrogance does allure
 And, like a nine-days'-wonder, fame enjoys:
 But Modesty, a lasting light ensures;
 Attract it does but offers no decoy.

If pride can lure a snobbish Sam or Sally,
 Humility has his sincere helping hands:
 In times of need, his allies round him rally;
 In days of stress, Ego's chums disband.

'Plenty' begets 'Pride'; but wealth has wings,
 And Conceit's goods are much more quickly spent:
 Not long he sings — his own praise who sings;
 Ears, unto his song, not long are lent.

Oaks will fall while reeds can stand the storm;
 And 'Shame' follows 'Pride' that has a fall:
 All things are best within their size and norm;
 So pinch your pride before it grows too tall !

FRUGALITY VERSUS PRODIGALITY

Once deprived of youth and hunting strength,
A lion, too, retires to its cave;
Knowing not what age may bring at length,
In spring itself for winter must you save.

The wise and mature pounds themselves can bear
The burden of refusing to be spent;
The pence it is that need your tender care;
Ensure these tiny babes remain unspent.

If one of Fortune's hands is Industry,
Thrift is said to be her other hand:
Adopt not a random spending spree;
But have a balanced budget that is planned.

Your earnings must you spend in proper doses,
And save your wealth from going down the drain:
If now you make yourself a bed of roses,
Once they fade, the thorns alone remain.

A fool spends his all on present fun;
A wiser man, for future, something lays:
And, while he still is basking in the sun,
Thinks also of the coming rainy days.

The 'lend and borrow' stories have been harrowing;
By poets and by bards we oft are told
That those who go a-borrowing go a-sorrowing
And lender's loss, in time, becomes two-fold.

So cut your coat according to your cloth,
 And spurn the shylock's game of 'give to take';
 As much as suits your pot, brew your broth;
 For outward show, your honour never stake.

Spare to have your own than ask of others
 For, borrowers become slaves to those who lend:
 Frugal be, and prodigal waste do smother;
 For, reckless youth in rueful age may end.

Without supper sleep and debtless wake;
 If out of debt, you're out of danger too:
 Constant leaks a barrel empty make;
 To plug the holes in time, you well would do.

Wilful waste engenders woeful want;
 So spare when young to spend when you are old:
 The leanest purse, sickness soaks or haunts;
 Ready cash ready medicine holds.

Not trust in money, money in trust do place;
 A penny saved becomes a penny's gain:
 With 'rights', wealth does 'duties' interlace;
 'Abundance' brings us danger, fear and strain.

'Wealth', on you, its heavy burden casts,
 While 'want' it own weight well can bear:
 Your lot may later be to beg or fast,
 To save your wealth if now you do not care!

COURAGE VERSUS COWARDICE

Every cloud does have a silver lining,
And every night is followed by a morn :
Bear awhile, the sun will soon be shining;
The darkest hour is just before the dawn.

A storm is often followed by a calm
And coins, too, have also their reverse;
Sweet effects may flow from bitter harm;
A blessing it may prove, and not a curse.

No meat there is, we know, without bones;
No sweet for him who will not taste the sour :
With good, the ill to suffer, all are prone;
No joy is meant for him at pain who cowers.

Injured ere you are, never cry;
To Danger's dread, a victim do not fall :
Cowards they, before their death who die;
Who fears death hardly lives at all.

Not far from Danger lives Security;
No cure for him who is, to fear, a slave;
The touchstone of the brave is calamity;
Those whom fortune favours are the brave.

No Victory, but a Battle, is our life;
Expect the best; to face the worst prepare :
Trust in God, but ready be, for strife;
Keep your powder dry; don't despair.

Rather than success, it's misadventure
 That teaches us many a useful lesson;
 Nothing can they have who nothing venture;
 By facing danger once, your fear you shun.

Till it troubles, never trouble 'trouble';
 Cross the bridge after you come to it;
 Advance fear of grief makes it double;
 Should sorrow come, then in sorrow sit!

Never grieve for what you cannot help;
 Of bad bargains, try to make the most:
 Watch and wait; do not whine and whelp;
 Patience soon will guide you to the coast.

Against Hope, believe in Hope you should;
 God arrives when thought He's farthest off;
 Help He will, if only trust you would;
 Fear only Sin; at pain try to scoff.

A coward seeks courage from despair;
 The valiant take the bull by its horns;
 Your own burdens you yourself must bear;
 No 'gladness' can you have, of 'sadness' shorn.

To conquer or to die, who resolves,
 Rarely ever suffers a defeat:
 Grit, it is, that many a problem solves;
 Success smiles on those who Defeat beat!

PERSEVERANCE VERSUS DEFEATISM

Think nothing done while ought remains to do;
What earthly use doing things by halves?
From mature trees it is that fruits accrue,
And milk is had from cows and not from calves.

As much you do, as much remains to do;
Keep rowing on and rest not on your oars,
Though the shore quite distant seems to you;
For pluck alone luck does ope its doors.

As long as there is life, there should be hope;
Can perseverance ever fruitless be?
For all desires; deserts give you scope;
Deserve first, to get your 'cup of tea'.

For tasty fish the cat does yearn and crave
But, none-the-less, is loath to wet her feet,
Your efforts, too, should you try to save,
You cannot hope to have your cake or meat.

A way there is for all you will to do:
Like Bruce's spider, try and try again.
If, with steady zeal, your aim you woo,
Your cherished goal you will, in time, attain.

Nothing tried or done, nothing won;
The kernel who would eat, must crack the nut:
To success there are many doors, not one:
Each and every door is never shut.

Retrace not your steps upon your way
If, with speed, your goal you cannot trace:
Rome was built not in just a day;
Being slow, but steady, wins the race.

By running fast, how long can you run?
Goals are not attained by hasty speed:
The worth of deeds depends on how they're done;
Steady, diligent care is what you need.

Atop the ladder those who wish to be
Must start the climb from its lowest rung:
Step by step, a seed becomes a tree;
All at once, a tree has never sprung.

Seek until you find — no labour's lost;
More than force, our patience can achieve,
In spirit, never sink at any cost;
They win, that they can win, who believe.

To halt advance is by itself retreat;
You cannot taste until you have your sip:
'Retreat' means none other than defeat;
Never let that word cross your lips.

A man there was who said the word 'impossible'
In his dictionary did not find a place.
With similar fighting sense it should be possible
To apply the same yardstick to your case.

Attempt many a time to cross the hindrance;
Clear your way through paths full of weeds:
Repeated failures teach us perseverance,
And perseverance, soon, to victory leads.

Use the means, then blessings ask of God,
Having done all that you could do.
Apportioned by His own measuring rod,
Due success will soon come to you.



BENEVOLENCE VERSUS MALEVOLENCE

Do yourself as yourself would be done by,
 For, as you sow, must you reap one day :
 Your crop, from sickly seeds, of wilt may die:
 With luscious fruits healthy seeds repay.

From dwellings made of glass throw no stones
 Nor dig a pit to trap your innocent brothers,
 Lest you yourself encounter broken bones
 By tumbling down the pit you're dug for others!

One good turn, they say, deserves another;
 Far and wide it runs in gay relay!
 But evil deeds come home to roost and mother
 The chicks of guilt which soon beset your way.

Point not at others fancied failings
 For, one who mocks a cripple should be whole:
 Why bother how the ships around are sailing?
 Discharge, with credit, your own Captain's role.

Your neighbour's dirty yard is whose eye-sore?
 To your scorn before you give outlet,
 Take a broom and sweep before your door
 And, your own house, first in order set.

Generous ere you are, first be just;
 Before you give donation, pay your dues :
 To live, let others live, you must;
 Hate from hate, and love from love ensues.

Where the shoe does pinch, know the wearer;
 He laughs at scars who never felt a wound:
 The weight of burdens carried knows the bearer;
 Those who others judge themselves doom.

Evil do, look forward to the like,
 For scope there always is for 'tit-for-tat':
 But vengeful snakes alone come back to strike;
 Of nobler souls it's not a worthy act.

A selfless giver expects no reward;
 While giving light, candles burn themselves.
 A man who, over others, tries to lord
 Shows that what they have, he lacks himself!

Trust not all you see nor half you hear:
 Gossip's tales are much more false than true:
 To slander it's unwise to lend your ear;
 The one who talks to you may talk of you.

The needy help, but recall not you did;
 'Do good', they say 'and cast it to the sea':
 To harp on favours done is quite sordid;
 No favours but affronts they tend to be.

Your sinful thoughts, from man, you well may mask,
 But thoughts also need circumvention:
 For, while the law your action takes to task,
 God is there to punish your intention.

Others bite, and yourself may be bit;
 Judge, and judgement on you will be hurled:
 By just a little candle much is lit,
 And so shines a good act in this world.

UNITY VERSUS FRICTION

Never slam opinion's door too tight;
As many men, as many minds at play:
Not so to all whatever to you is right;
The heat that melts the wax encrusts the clay.

Meat for one, for others may be poison;
Neither minds nor bodies are alike:
To friction, if you wish to find solution,
A poised and balanced bargain must you strike.

Many a luckless man by fate is blind,
But none so blind as one who will not see:
To others' views, should you a bandage bind,
In the dark you yourself will be!

Many a varied mickle makes a pickle,
As brooks run to rivers and they to seas:
No use, singly, soil, seed or sickle
But, all combined, convert land to leas.

To make a quarrel it takes two or more;
The olive branch is there for you to offer:
Unity, then, will once more knock your door,
And peace will also return to your coffers.

Better lose a jest than lose a friend;
To outlaw discord must we all endeavour:
Whenever wrong, our views we must amend;
No use it is to persist in them for ever.

No two on earth in all things agree;
No simile, on all fours, ever runs :
All things must have some singularity;
Variety gives our life spicy fun.

Two heads are often better than only one;
More than a single eye, two can see :
The more the hands, the more that can be done;
To stubborn locks, unity holds the key.

The base of unity is to 'give and take';
To 'take' alone tends to break that base.
'Non-interference' a peaceful way does make
For co-existence of all with equal grace.

Firmly can you stand if united,
For union is the iron-rod of strength :
But quickly will you fall if divided;
The severing axe may hack you down at length.

A single flower a garland does not make;
From a single grain, no bread can we obtain,
A single drop our thirst can never slake;
With a single breath no life can we retain.

But many a drop together make a shower,
And many strokes can fell the greatest oak:
Many a brick can form the tallest tower;
A powerful force become united folk.

Strong enough are weak but joined hands
To link themselves into a mighty chain:
Fraternal workers are the tiny ants;
Themselves wee, they form an immense train!

It's just the 'start' if people 'come together';
Should they 'keep together', it is 'progress';
'Success' comes if all should 'work together';
So let us work together for our success.



**PROVERBS AND QUOTATIONS
FIGURING IN THE
PRECEDING VERSE**

INDUSTRY VERSUS INDOLENCE

- 1) Industry is fortune's right hand and frugality her left.
- 2) An idle brain is the devil's workshop.
- 3) Sloth is the mother of poverty.
- 4) Labour never goes in vain.
- 5) Beggars must not be choosers.
- 6) Every man is the architect of his own fortune.
- 7) Put your shoulder to the wheel.
- 8) No pains, no gains.
- 9) Better do a thing than wish it done.
- 10) Self-help is the best help.
- 11) God helps those who help themselves.
- 12) A mind employed is a mind enjoyed.
- 13) Ease and itch can no man please.
- 14) Deeds are fruits.
- 15) Idleness should thank itself if it goes bankrupt.
- 16) Idleness is a key to beggary.
- 17) Better slave to man than slave to sloth.
- 18) The soil pays according to the soil.
- 19) As much flame as much as there is oil.

- 20) If wishes were horses, beggars would ride.
- 21) A good beginning makes a good ending.
- 22) Life is no resting but a moving; let thy life be deed on deed —— Goethe.
- 23) He who would search for pearls must dive below.
- 24) No man is born into this world whose work is not born along with him —— Lowell.
- 25) Gone is the goose that was golden.
- 26) Words are mere leaves; deeds are fruits.

PROMPTITUDE VERSUS PROCRASTINATION

- 27) Time and tide wait for no man.
- 28) Make hay while the sun shines.
- 29) Procrastination is a thief of time.
- 30) A stitch in time saves nine.
- 31) Strike the iron while it is hot.
- 32) Early to bed and early to rise,
Makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise.
- 33) Lie with the lamb and rise with the lark.
- 34) An early bird catches the worms.
- 35) Business delayed is business lost.

- 36) Art is long, life is short.
- 37) Life is half spent before we know what it is.
- 38) Time lost cannot be recalled.
- 39) One hour today is worth two tomorrow.
- 40) Hoist your sail when the wind is fair.
- 41) Never put off till tomorrow what can be done today.
- 42) Take time by the forelock.
- 43) After death the doctor!
- 44) Justice delayed is justice denied.
- 45) He gives twice who gives quickly.
- 46) Benefits, like flowers, please most when they are fresh.
- 47) A little given seasonably excels a great gift.
- 48) Delays are dangerous.
- 49) Punctuality is the soul of business.
- 50) Life's a short summer — man a flower;
He dies — alas, how soon he dies — Samual Johnson.
- 51) Tomorrow's Sun to thee may never rise — Congreve.
- 52) Better late than never.

PRECAUTION VERSUS REMEDY

- 53) Caution is the eldest child of wisdom.
- 54) Discretion is the better part of valour.
- 55) Nip it in the bud.
- 56) Never be too smug or sure.
- 57) Prevention is better than cure.
- 58) Do not cry over spilt milk.
- 59) Lock your stable before the steed is stolen.
- 60) Forewarned, fare-armed.
- 61) Wise men learn by other men's mistakes; fools by their own.
- 62) Better wear your armour before you are wounded.
- 63) Haste makes waste.
- 64) Marry in haste and repent at leisure.
- 65) Fools rush in where angels fear to tread.
- 66) Look before you leap.
- 67) Before cutting once measure twice.
- 68) Better be sure than sorry.
- 69) Age considers but youth ventures.
- 70) Hasty climbers have sudden falls.

- 71) Before you walk, creep.
- 72) Haste trips upon its own feet.
- 73) First try and then trust.
- 74) Good and quick seldom meet.
- 75) Do not put all your eggs in one basket.
- 76) Blow first and then sip.
- 77) The cure may be worse than the disease.

CONTENTMENT VERSUS AVARICE

- 78) Appearances are deceptive.
- 78a) All that glitters is not gold.
- 79) If you try to grasp all, you lose all.
- 80) A bird in hand is worth two in the bush.
- 81) If you cannot have what you like, like what you have.
- 82) The ass went asking for horns but lost its ears.
- 83) Prefer your own things to those of others.
- 84) Something is better than nothing.
- 85) The one-eyed is king among the blind.
- 86) Man proposes, God disposes.
- 87) Shape your life and fortune leave to God.

- 88) Better bread at home than cakes abroad.
- 89) Avarice is the root of evil.
- 90) Contentment is bliss.
- 91) Never quit certainty for hope.
- 92) Distance lends enchantment to the view.
- 93) Take the rough with the smooth.
- 94) He that buys flesh buys bones too.
- 95) Envy shoots at others and injures itself.
- 96) Better half a loaf than no bread.
- 97) Do not covet your neighbour's wife.
- 98) Shameful craving must have a shameless nay.
- 99) Contentment lodges oftener in cottages than palaces.
- 100) Gold is the dust that blinds all eyes.
- 101) A contended mind is a continual feast.
- 102) Contentment is more than a kingdom.
- 103) No vice like avarice.
- 104) All men cannot be masters.
- 105) No rose without a thorn.
- 106) No joy without alloy.
- 107) What can't be cured must be endured.

- 108) Do not complain because the rose bush has thorns; rejoice that the thorn bush bears roses — (Arabian)

PRUDENCE IN SPEECH VERSUS IMPRUDENCE

- 109) A man of wisdom never wants words.
- 110) No wisdom like silence.
- 111) Hear much, speak little.
- 112) A man of words and not deeds is like a garden full of weeds.
- 113) A good tongue is a good weapon.
- 114) Jocular slanders often prove serious injuries.
- 115) Brevity is the soul of wit.
- 116) Deliver your words not by numbers but by weight.
- 117) Speak well of your friends and nothing of your enemies.
- 118) Speak when you are spoken to.
- 119) If every one speaks, no one will hear.
- 120) Listening is a part of conversation.
- 121) Speech is silver, silence is gold.
- 122) The tongue can break bones though itself has none.
- 123) Better your foot slips than your tongue.
- 124) Words uttered cannot be recalled.

- 125) An insult has a longer life than injury.
- 126) Think all you speak but speak not all you think.
- 127) A soft answer turneth wrath away.
- 128) The least said, the soonest mended.
- 129) A bridle for the tongue is a necessary piece of furniture.
- 130) Words like unreined horses, race beyond return.
- 131) The tongue is not steel but cuts deeper.
- 132) A kind word costs nothing.

GOOD CHARACTER AND BREEDING VERSUS BAD

- 133) A good name is better than bags of gold.
- 134) Advice can be given but not conduct.
- 135) Honesty is the best policy.
- 136) A liar is another name for thief.
- 137) Do not bite the hand that feeds you.
- 138) A promise is like an oath unto God.
- 139) Dishonour is worse than death.
- 140) Might is right.
- 141) There is no greater enemy than a traitor.
- 142) Atonement can erase the smudge of guilt.

- 143) Better a blush on the face than a blot on the heart.
- 144) Admonish your friends in private and praise them in public.
- 145) Receivers are as bad as thieves.
- 146) It is unwise to let your wrath erupt.
- 147) Practise what you preach.
- 148) Example is better than precept.
- 149) A genuine man keeps his word.
- 150) Pardon all but yourself.
- 151) Chasten none but yourself.
- 152) He that does not respect others is not respected.
- 153) The past is dead and should be buried.
- 154) Let bygones be bygones.
- 155) Forget and forgive.

HUMILITY VERSUS PRIDE

- 156) Empty vessels sound the most.
- 157) It is shallow brooks that bicker.
- 158) Dignity begins where boasting ends.
- 159) Still waters run deep.
- 160) Every ass loves to hear himself bray.

- 161) Hold-fast is a better dog than Brag.
- 162) Self-praise is no recommendation.
- 163) Vainglory blossoms but does not bear.
- 164) A branch that has more weight bows lower.
- 165) Great boast, little roast.
- 166) Good deeds need no show.
- 167) Ingratitude is the daughter of pride.
- 168) The way to dignity is humility.
- 169) Dab your mouth with honey and you will get plenty of flies.
- 170) When I am dead, the world is gone.
- 171) The cock thinks the sun rises only to hear him crow!
- 172) Modesty keeps its lustre in the dark.
- 173) Plenty breeds pride.
- 174) Conceited goods are quickly spent.
- 175) Oaks will fall when reeds stand the storm.
- 176) Pride goeth before and shame cometh later.
- 177) Pride goeth before a fall.
- 178) Pride must be pinched.

FRUGALITY VERSUS PRODIGALITY

- 179) Even a lion, that is too old to hunt retires to its cave.
- 180) Take care of the pounds and the pence will take care of themselves.
- 181) Industry is fortune's right hand and frugality her left.
- 182) If you now lie on a bed of roses, once the fade, only the thorns remain.
- 183) A fool spends all his money on the present while a wise man lays something by for the future.
- 184) He who goes a-borrowing goes a-sorrowing.
- 185) The lender loses both his money and his friend.
- 186) Cut your coat according to your cloth.
- 187) Spare to have your own than ask of others.
- 188) Reckless youth ends in rueful age.
- 189) Sleep without supping and wake without owing.
- 190) Out of debt, out of danger.
- 191) A leaking barrel is soon empty.
- 192) Wilful waste brings woeful want.
- 193) Spare when you are young to spend when you are old.

- 194) Sickness soaks the purse.
- 195) Ready money is ready medicine.
- 196) Put not your trust in money but put your money in trust.
- 197) A penny saved is a penny gained.
- 198) Property has its duties as well as its rights.
- 199) When we have more, we are in danger.
- 200) Bear wealth; poverty will bear itself.

COURAGE VERSUS COWARDICE

- 201) Every cloud has a silver lining.
- 202) The hour that comes just before dawn is the darkest.
- 203) After a storm comes a calm.
- 204) Every medal hath its reverse.
- 205) Bitter pills may have sweet effects.
- 206) There is no meat without bones.
- 207) He deserves not the sweet who will not taste the sour.
- 208) Suffer the ill and look for the good.
- 209) Do not cry before you are hurt.
- 210) Cowards die many times before their death.

- 211) He that fears death lives not.
- 212) Danger is next neighbour to security.
- 213) There is no medicine for fear.
- 214) Calamity is the touchstone of a brave mind.
- 215) Fortune favours the brave.
- 216) Life is not a victory but a battle.
- 217) Hope for the best and prepare for the worst.
- 218) Trust in God but keep your powder dry.
- 219) Our best lessons are not learned through success but misadventure.
- 220) Nothing venture, nothing have.
- 221) Better pass a danger once than be always in fear.
- 222) Never trouble trouble till trouble troubles you.
- 223) Cross the bridge when you come to it.
- 224) Never grieve for what you cannot help.
- 225) Make the best of a bad bargain.
- 226) Everything comes to him who waits.
- 227) Hope against hope.
- 228) God comes at last when we think He is farthest off.
- 229) God provides for him who trusteth.
- 230) Fear nothing but sin.

- 231) Despair gives courage to a coward.
- 232) Take the bull by its horns.
- 233) Bear thine own burden; never think to thrust thy fate on another.
- 234) Sadness and gladness succeed each other.
- 235) He who resolves to conquer or die is rarely conquered.

PERSEVERANCE VERSUS DEFEATISM

- 236) Think nothing done while ought remains to do.
- 237) Never do things by halves.
- 238) As much as you do, as much remains to be done.
- 239) Pluck and luck go hand in hand.
- 240) There is hope as long as there is life.
- 241) Perseverance is never unfruitful.
- 242) First deserve and then desire.
- 243) The cat loves fish but is loath to wet her feet.
- 244) Where there is a will there is a way.
- 245) He that will eat the kernel must crack the nut.
- 246) Rome was not built in a day.
- 247) Slow and steady wins the race.

- 248) He that runs fast will not run long.
- 249) What is worth doing is worth doing well.
- 250) He who would climb the ladder must begin at the bottom.
- 251) Seek till you find and you will not lose your labour.
- 252) Our patience will achieve more than our force.
- 253) Sink not in spirit.
- 254) They can conquer who believe they can.
- 255) To halt advance means retreat.
- 256) You cannot taste till you have your sip.
- 257) The word impossible is not in my dictionary.
- 258) Use the means and God will give the blessings.
- 259) Failure teaches perseverance.
- 260) Victory belongs to the most persevering.

BENEVOLENCE VERSUS MALEVOLENCE

- 261) Do as you would be done by.
- 262) As you sow, so must you reap.
- 263) Those who live in glass houses should not throw stones.
- 264) He who digs a pit for others may himself fall in it.

- 265) One good turn deserves another.
- 266) Evil deeds come home to roost.
- 267) The one who mocks a cripple should be whole.
- 268) The wearer knows where the shoe pinches.
- 269) He laughs at scars who never felt a wound.
- 270) Evil do, look forward to the like.
- 271) It is a vengeful snake that returns to strike.
- 272) A selfless giver expects no reward.
- 273) Candles light others but burn themselves.
- 274) Sweep before your own door.
- 275) Set your own house in order first.
- 276) Do not believe all you see or half of what you hear.
- 277) Gossip's tales are more false than true.
- 278) The one who talks to you may talk of you.
- 279) Be just before you are generous.
- 280) Live and let live.
- 281) Do good and cast it to the sea.
- 282) Do not recall the favours you have done.
- 283) Thoughts, like acts, also need circumspection.

- 284) The law punishes the action and God the intention.
- 285) The biter is sometimes bitten.
- 286) Judge not that ye be not judged.
- 287) How far that little candle throws its beams —
So shines a good deed in this naughty world
— Shakespeare.

UNITY VERSUS FRICTION

- 288) As many men, as many minds.
- 289) The heat that melts the wax hardens the clay.
- 290) Meat for one may be poison for another.
- 291) None is so blind as one who will not see.
- 292) Many a mickle makes a pickle.
- 293) Brooks run to rivers and rivers run to seas.
- 294) It takes two to make a quarrel.
- 295) Better lose a jest than lose a friend.
- 296) It is better to change our opinion than persist in a
wrong one.
- 297) No two on earth in all things can agree.
- 298) No simile runs on all fours.
- 299) Variety is the spice of life.
- 300) Two heads are better than one.

- 301) Two eyes can see more than one.
 - 302) United you stand; divided you fall.
 - 303) Union is the iron-rod of strength.
 - 304) A single flower makes no garland.
 - 305) Many drops make a shower.
 - 306) Many strokes fell great oaks.
 - 307) Weak things united become strong.
 - 308) Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.
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**NEW APHORISMS
COINED
IN THE COURSE OF
VERSIFICATION**

INDUSTRY VERSUS INDOLENCE

- 1) Fruition dwells on Labour's mountain-top.
- 2) The choice of things lies with those who earn.
- 3) No fruits for him who leads a life of ease.
- 4) Feeds not Indolence, but leads to hunger.
- 5) Lazy beggars tiny paise get;
rupees large are earned by those who sweat.
- 6) To taste ambrosia, we must the ocean steam.
- 7) Nothing tried or done, nothing won.
- 7a) The 'Work-not' men comprise the 'have-not' clan.

PROMPTITUDE VERSUS PROCRASTINATION

- 8) Food consumed in time is fresh and soft.
- 9) As swift as wind time flies in air.
- 10) To catch it from behind, time wears no tail.
- 11) Costliest things are not worth a dime if given after
need for them is past.
- 12) Wherefore hang a man and then acquit him?
- 13) Time, for none, will ever change its ways.
- 14) Promptitude, to success holds the key.
- 15) Never can you Time ever date.

PRUDENCE IN SPEECH VERSUS IMPRUDENCE

- 16) Curt replies in tempers hot result.
- 17) Never let your tongue dispense offence.
- 18) Deeper wounds than steel the tongue can cut,
which even Dr. Time may fail to heal.

PRECAUTION VERSUS REMEDY

- 19) While they still are fresh, your fish do fry.
- 20) To poison, ere it bills, attach the label.
- 21) Once you spot the enemy's warship mast,
it's time for you to sound your battle-drum.
- 22) No grit it is but folly to be led
to toss yourself in waters dark and deep.
- 23) Be sure no life exists in what you bury.
- 24) Ere putting things in it, check your pocket.
- 25) Read the paper ere you sign your name.

CONTENTMENT VERSUS AVARICE

- 26) Why forsake, for wealth or joy, prospective,
The happy lot that you at present hold?
- 27) Greed with foreign lands in love does fall.
- 28) Contentment loves his own mother-land.
- 29) Better than your neighbour's wine, your water.
- 30) Contentment is the honeyed flower of bliss.
- 31) All can rule the kingdom of contentment.
- 32) Both for weal and woe we all are born.
- 33) The more it has, the more is sought by avarice.
- 34) Why complain that cows have also horns?
Rejoice they give us milk in generous doses.

HUMILITY VERSUS PRIDE

- 35) Unwise it is, to talk of your own skill.
- 36) No need there is for quaffing your own toast.
- 37) Let those around, your worth from others know.
- 38) Reserve converts its flowers to fruits with care.
- 39) Humility's comely child is Dignity.
- 40) Braggarts don a dress of colours crude.
- 41) The garb of modest men is civility.

- 42) Hauteur, craven folk alone, can corner.
- 43) Pompousness is not the way to honour;
decorous be: there all the honour lies.
- 44) With fancy feathers, Arrogance allures.
- 45) Humility has his sincere helping hands;
in times of need, his allies round him rally.
- 46) In days of stress, Ego's chums disband.
- 47) All things are best within their size and norm.
- 48) Not long he sings — his own praise who sings;
ears unto his song, not long are lent.

FRUGALITY VERSUS PRODIGALITY

- 49) In spring itself for winter must you save.
- 50) While he is still basking in the sun, a wise man
thinks also of the coming rainy days.
- 51) As much as suits your pot, brew your broth.

BENEVOLENCE VERSUS MALEVOLENCE

- 52) Your crop from sickly seeds, of wilt may die;
with luscious fruits healthy seeds repay.
- 53) The chicks of guilt will soon beset your way.
- 54) The weight of burdens carried knows the bearer.
- 55) Your neighbour's dirty yard is whose eye-sore?
- 56) Gossip's tales are much more false than true.

- 57) To slander, it's unwise to lend your ear.
- 58) Before you give donation, pay your dues.
- 59) Hate from hate and love from love ensues.
- 60) To harp on favours done is quite sordid;
no favours but affronts they tend to be.

GOOD CHARACTER VERSUS BAD

- 61) Your fortune's lord although you may not be,
prevent you can your soul from being sold.
- 62) Your own conduct you yourself construct.
- 63) None can lend or give you good behaviour.
- 64) The weight of ill-repute will be enormous.
- 65) Beneath the righteous banner 'Right is Might',
without a fight a battle might be won.
- 66) Be he king or common philanthropist,
no peer exists equal to a martyr.
- 67) Confession, of redressal is a part.
- 68) A cheat makes a pompous oath or speech;
a genuine man has his promise kept.
- 69) Let others have the choice of pardoning you.
- 70) Let others have no cause for chastening you.
- 71) He that does not love is seldom loved.
- 72) He that accepts not is soon rejected.
- 73) He that neglects, to a nook is shoved.

PERSEVERANCE VERSUS DEFEATISM

- 74) From mature trees it is that fruits accrue.
- 75) Milk is had from cows and not from calves.
- 76) Keep rowing on and rest not on your oars.
- 77) Like Bruce's spider, try and try again.
- 78) To success there are more doors than one ;
each and every door is never shut.
- 79) Retreat means none other than defeat.
- 80) Step by step a seed becomes a tree ;
all at once a tree has never sprung.

COURAGE VERSUS COWARDICE

- 81) Every night is followed by a morn.
- 82) Bear awhile, the sun will soon be shining.
- 83) No joy is meant for him at pain who cowers.
- 84) Watch and wait ; do not whine and whelp ;
all good things to patience set a test.
- 85) To Danger's dread, a victim do not fall.
- 86) Success smiles on those who beat defeat.

UNITY VERSUS FRICTION

- 87) Never slam opinion's door too tight.
- 88) Neither minds nor bodies are alike.
- 89) To others' views should you a bandage bind,
in the dark you yourself will be !
- 90) The olive branch is there for you to offer.
- 91) No use, singly, soil, seed or sickle,
but all combined, convert lands to leas.
- 92) The more the hands, the more that can be done.
- 93) To stubborn locks, unity holds the key.
- 94) From a single grain no bread can we obtain.
- 95) A single drop our thirst can never slake.
- 96) With a single breath no life can we retain.
- 97) Many a brick can form the tallest tower.
- 98) Strong enough are weak but joined hands,
to link themselves into a mighty chain.
- 99) Fraternal workers are the tiny ants;
themselves wee, they form an immense train.
- 100) Firmly can you stand if united.

OTHER BOOKS BY THE SAME AUTHOR

Poetry

- 1) A Resurrection — Book I
- 2) A Resurrection — Book II (On the Anvil)

Prose

- 3) Ten Silver Keys to Good English ”
- 4) Ten Golden Keys to Flowery English ”
- 5) A complete Book of Idioms ”
(with their Interpretations & Usage)
- 6) A Guide to Proper Pronunciation ”
- 7) Synonyms, Antonyms & Homonyms ”